

NIH.

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HERPANGINA LINKED WITH VIRUS GROUP



Dr. Habel (left) and two science scholarship students watch Dr. Li prepare to inject polio virus into spine of mouse.

SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH WINNERS TOUR NIH LABS

Forty high school boys and girls from over the nation -- winners of the tenth annual science talent search conducted by the Science Clubs of America and sponsored by the Westinghouse Educational Foundation -- visited NIH on March 5 to see how medical research is conducted and to question scientists on their work.

Dr. William H. Sebrell, Jr., Director of NIH, welcomed the group and discussed informally the general aspects of NIH activities. The students spent the next two hours in selected laboratories listening to scientists explain their investigations and the technical equipment employed.

At NCI, the fledgling scholars learned about the role of genetics

(See Talent Winners, Page 4)

NIH EMPLOYEES WILL GET FREE X-RAY EXAM

Final arrangements have been completed for the three-day visit to NIH this week of the mobile unit of the Montgomery County Tuberculosis Association.

On Tuesday, March 20, the trailer unit will be set up at Building T-6, Personnel Branch announced, and on the next two days the unit will move to Building 1. Hours each day will be from 9:30 to 12:30 and 1:15 to 3:45.

The free chest X-rays are available to all employees. Supervisors have been requested to distribute cards to their employees and to schedule the time for each visit. Appointments will be scheduled at the rate of 25 to 35 every 15 minutes. Notification of the results of the X-ray will be mailed to the employee's home address.

DISEASE SYMPTOMS RESEMBLE POLIO

Investigations by NIH scientists have linked the A group of Coxsackie viruses with herpangina, a mild illness of widespread occurrence, especially among children, which has caused fear of polio because of similarity of symptoms.

The studies were made in cooperation with Children's and Gallinger Hospitals of Washington, D.C., following outbreaks which were later indicated to be herpangina. The outbreaks occurred in the Washington area, chiefly in the summer of 1950. Since Coxsackie type viruses were recovered from nearly all cases and from a majority of persons in contact with them, the scientists conclude these viruses represent the causative agent of the illness.

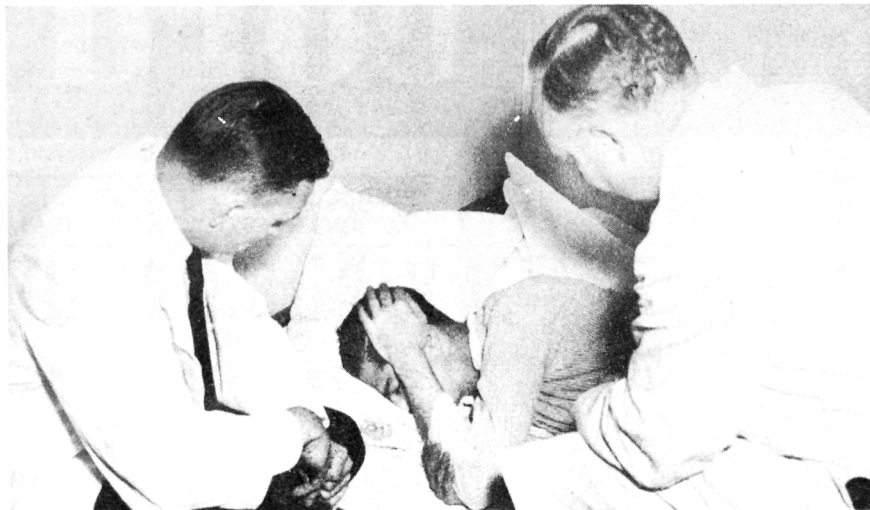
Herpangina was first described as a disease entity in 1924 by Dr. John Zahorsky of St. Louis. Prior to the NIH studies, however, physicians had found its symptoms puzzling and mistook herpangina for various throat conditions.

The report on recent investigations was made by Drs. Robert J. Huebner, Roger M. Cole, Edward A. Beeman, and Joseph A. Bell of NMI, and Dr. James H. Peers of NIAMD, in the March 3 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

Clinically, the symptoms follow completely the neglected description made by Dr. Zahorsky in 1924. The illness starts with an acute fever, often rising to 104 degrees. Minute blisters appear in the tonsillar part of the throat -- or if these have ruptured, small punched-out ulcers.

Drug Addiction Research

No. 43 of a Series



Dr. Isbell (left) and Dr. Fraser observe barbiturate addict who has had a convulsion during withdrawal period.

The only laboratory in the world entirely devoted to the study of drug addiction is maintained at the Public Health Service Hospital at Lexington, Ky., and staffed by NIMH personnel.

This laboratory studies the addicting properties of pain-relieving and hypnotic drugs; it also conducts basic physiological, psychological, and psychiatric investigations into causes and cures of drug addiction. Since 1945, it has been headed by Dr. Harris Isbell.

A technique which gives a quick and accurate measurement of addiction-producing properties was devised at Lexington in the 1930's. It was with this technique that such properties in the demerol and methadone series of drugs were discovered. These drugs are not chemically related to morphine and consequently were not at first suspect. But, if the Lexington studies had not caused them to be put under the Harrison Narcotics Act, thousands of Americans might have become addicted to these drugs before the need to control their use was discovered.

Another important contribution was made at Lexington in 1943, when it was demonstrated that drug addiction has a physiological as well as a psychological basis. Evidence has shown that persistent use of drugs upsets the natural balance of the automatic responses of the central nervous system.

Work at Lexington in the 1940's also revealed that opiates do more than merely impair the ability to feel pain. They alter the emotional reaction so that pain loses its dangerous meaning.

That barbiturates, commonly called sleeping pills, are addicting was also proved in clinical experiments at Lexington. In fact, states Dr. Isbell, "addiction to barbiturates is more dangerous and harmful than is addiction to morphine or other pain-relieving drugs." In recent experiments, Dr. Isbell and his colleagues showed that persons accustomed to taking large doses of sleeping pills could develop psychoses or epileptic convulsions -- or both -- when the barbiturates were suddenly withdrawn.

Recently, Dr. Isbell has been investigating the new acetylmethadol drugs -- synthetics derived from methadone. These drugs were first made at NIAMD by Dr. Everette L. May and tested on animals by Dr. Nathan B. Eddy. One of them appears to be better than other drugs formerly used to help addicts taper off morphine. Usually the patient has a very bad reaction when morphine is withdrawn. When an acetylmethadol is substituted, his physical reactions are minor. The drug's effects last three or four times as long as methadon or morphine; it is also very effective when given by mouth.

Here and There

Trips and Talks

Five NIAMD scientists are attending the March 19-20 meeting of the Histochemical Society in Detroit. They are Drs. Ralph D. Lillie, Robert W. Mowry, James B. Longley, Benjamin Highman, and Gleb Nedzel.

Lecturing this month at the Army Medical Service Graduate School in Washington are six NMI scientists -- Drs. Willard H. Wright, John E. Tobie, Thomas H. Tomlinson, Theodor Von Brand, Louis J. Oliver, and Mr. John Bozicevich.

Influenza Vaccinations

Through the influenza clinic arranged by the NIH Health Unit as part of an experimental study, 242 employees here were vaccinated recently. Participation was voluntary.

Cancer Articles

A series of cancer articles has been prepared by the NCI Nursing Section for publication in Public Health Nursing. First article to appear is "Children Get Cancer Too!" The others will be published later in 1951. They deal with care of advanced patients, the role of the nurse in cancer control, and education techniques.

Civil Defense Post

Dr. Paul A. Neal, Chief of the Laboratory of Physical Biology, NIAMD, has been appointed a member of the Technical Committee of Chemical Warfare by the Director of Civil Defense, District of Columbia.

Heart Campaign

NIH employees contributed \$75.05 to the recent fund drive of the Washington Heart Association.

Hospitalization

There will be no spring drive for NIH membership in Group Hospitalization, Inc., Personnel Branch reports. NIH was unable to meet the quota established by the Washington organization.

Honors

Dr. Willie W. Smith, Laboratory of Physical Biology, NIAMD, has been elected Secretary of the Washington Chapter of Sigma Delta Epsilon.

OFFICERS' WIVES CLUB BACKS STAGE BENEFIT

The Officers' Wives Club of PHS is sponsoring a benefit performance of the play, "Heaven Can Wait," Monday, April 2, at 8:30 p.m., at Leland Junior High School, 44th and Elm Streets, Chevy Chase, Md.

Proceeds of the play, which is being produced by the Montgomery County Players, will be donated to the recreation fund of the PHS Hospital in Baltimore. Through the fund, patients are supplied books, games, movies, and other forms of entertainment.

A motion picture based on "Heaven Can Wait" was filmed several years ago under the title, "Here Comes Mr. Jordan," starring Robert Montgomery.

Tickets are \$1.20. The names of persons from whom they may be obtained at NIH are available from Mrs. Dorothy Amos, Ext. 2071.

NIH PROGENY HELP LAUNCH GOVERNMENT

Forty Bethesda fifth graders, including several whose fathers work at NIH, are going in for government with considerable gusto these days at the Bradley Elementary School.

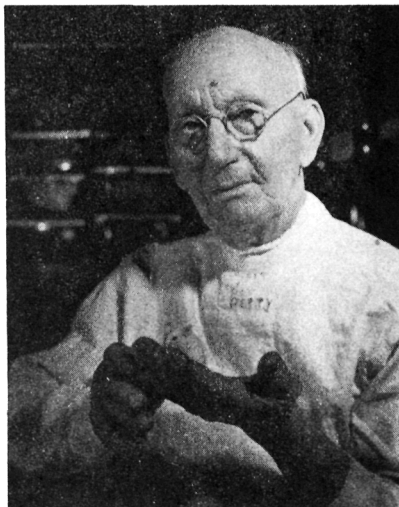
They've drawn up a constitution and adopted a county manager form of government -- a set-up that relieves their teacher, Mrs. Elna May Miller, of most of her disciplinary duties.

Directing the grass roots democracy is a five-member council headed by Linda Perry, daughter of Roy Perry of NIH's Photographic Research Section. Also on the council is Donald Heston, son of Dr. Walter Heston of NCI.

Two other youngsters of NIH interest are members of the "United Fifth Grade" -- Marcia Cameron, daughter of Dr. Dale C. Cameron of NIMH, and Franca "Punky" Bozicevich, daughter of John Bozicevich of NMI.

The constitution hammered out by the fifth graders is somewhat unusual in that infractions result in loss of citizenship. However, non-citizens can regain their rights by extra school work, high grades, or a stint of voluntary service.

NIH Spotlight



William A. Berry

At an age when most oldsters have long since retired, content to putter in the garden and follow the sun around the house, genial 84-year-old William A. Berry, NIH's oldest employee, is still putting out a good day's work -- and what's more, enjoying it.

He came to NIH as an animal caretaker eight years ago, when World War II was in midpassage and the labor shortage acute. Hale and hearty, he stayed on. (Hasn't lost a day due to sickness since 1944.) Every day finds him making the rounds of the animal cages in Building 8, where thousands of mice are maintained for research use by NCI's Chemotherapy Section. Only two weeks ago he observed his 84th birthday at his home in Rockville, where he lives with his daughter-in-law and two grandchildren.

Born in La Plata, Charles County, Maryland, two years after the end of the Civil War, Mr. Berry has lived his entire life in nearby Maryland. As a boy, he attended a one-room country school near La Plata, walking five miles a day over mud roads. His first teacher was a Captain Pennington, whom he remembers as a mild-mannered man with a long white beard.

Mr. Berry cast his first presidential vote in 1888. In the years that followed, he saw the oath of office taken by Grover Cleveland, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, and Franklin D. Roosevelt. Taft he missed because of a blizzard.

NIH GETS FUND QUOTA FOR RED CROSS DRIVE

With service needs greatly increased as a result of the Korean emergency and preparations for civil defense, the American Red Cross this month launched its 1951 fund campaign to raise \$85,000,000 across the Nation.

NIH has been assigned a quota of \$6,027 out of a total PHS quota of \$11,985 in the Washington area drive. Heading the campaign at NIH is Miss Mary D. Bertha, Personnel Branch.

Employee solicitation by division chairman and keymen began on March 13. NIH's quota this year is approximately \$2,000 larger than last year's.

The Red Cross program has been expanded in recent months to meet the need of the armed forces for whole blood and blood derivatives and to assist communities with civil defense preparations.

Serving as NIH division chairmen for the drive are Marceline Lee, C. H. Morrison, Ruth Heffernan, James Phillips, Margaret Salisbury, Irving Miller, Harvey Wolford, William Mastin, Mary Mohler, Mary Johnson, Elliot Brookman, Barbara Zeigler, Nell Painter, and Evelyn Gombert.

In the course of his four score and four years, Mr. Berry has been a farmer, a subagent for the Standard Oil Company, and a clerk for various Rockville stores. Before coming to NIH, he worked for ten years for a Rockville fruit farm.

Fifth in a family of fourteen children, Mr. Berry comes from remarkably hardy stock. His mother lived into her nineties, a brother and sister reached 87, and his father touched 80.

For those who would like to live to a ripe old age, Mr. Berry prescribes regularity of routine and good habits. As he talked, a mouse in a nearby cage was busy demonstrating what life often resembles in today's hectic world -- the kind of life that seems senseless to octogenarians. Mr. Berry watched him. He was running around his cage at a frantic pace, like a dog chasing his tail. "We call him the circus mouse," Mr. Berry said. "Don't know what ails him. Must run ten miles a day."

TOP COTTAGE USED FOR MANY NIH ACTIVITIES

Long a familiar landmark at NIH, Top Cottage has been the scene of many official and semi-official functions through the years.

Personnel of all the Institutes use the Cottage, located across the road from the North Parking Lot, for staff seminars, staff luncheons, and regular meetings. PHS Junior Officers and the Officers' Wives Club meet there. And from time to time well-known medical figures from other countries have been entertained at the Cottage.

Just how useful Top Cottage has proved is indicated by the fact that within a recent two-month period it has accommodated 37 daytime functions and 22 evening activities.

Built in the 1920's, Top Cottage was donated to the Public Health Service in 1935 by Mr. and Mrs. Luke I. Wilson, together with 45 acres of land. It had been used by the Wilsons as a guest house. Its layout includes a large living room, bedroom, kitchen, enclosed porch, and a small room off the kitchen, with adjoining bath.

Reservations for the use of Top Cottage are made through the Director's office or through C. W. May, Chief of the Buildings Management Branch.

The summer months, according to Mr. May, usually bring an increase in reservations by groups scheduling office parties, teas, and similar activities. During the same period a number of the regularly scheduled seminars are suspended until fall.

SAFETY COURSE SET

A safety indoctrination session for NIH employees will be held in Wilson Hall Tuesday, March 27, from 1:00 to 2:45 p.m. The course is given each month for new personnel, but old employees are urged to attend if they have not had the training.

James B. Black, NIH Safety Engineer, said employees will be briefed on how to report fires, how to use fire-fighting equipment, and how to prevent fires. Hazards present in biological, radiological, and chemical laboratories will be explained, as well as emergency services provided by the Health Unit.

T-6 Routs Skunk In Scented Struggle

A skunk lost his bearings and wandered into Building T-6 recently, causing quite a commotion and something of a stench.

According to Sgt. James M. Burnley, building guard, the animal was discovered in a stair well of the first floor about 7:30 a.m. He apparently entered the building through an open rear exit.

The bushy-tailed intruder managed to make his way to the second floor, was knocked down the stair well with a pole, took cover under a radiator, was flushed out with a fire extinguisher, and eventually ended up outdoors under the steps. By this time he had been worked over by so many miscellaneous adversaries, a spectator would have guessed a wildcat had been routed -- but for a certain acrid odor that constitutes a skunk's defense in depth.

The vanquished beast was hauled off in a box by Mr. Harlow A. Rice of the Landscaping Grounds Section.

TALENT WINNERS Cont'd

in cancer research from Dr. Walter E. Heston, who explained studies of hereditary influence on the development of tumors in mice.

At NHI, Dr. Bert R. Boone and Mr. Frank W. Noble staged a demonstration of the electrokymograph, an instrument that records the movements of the heart, making possible early detection of certain serious heart ailments.

Dr. Karl Habel of NMI briefed the students on polio studies, explaining how the scientists are trying to adapt virus strains to mice and to grow them in chicken embryos and tissue cultures. From Dr. Evelyn Anderson of NIAMD the group learned about the research problems involved with cortisone and ACTH.

Winners of the Westinghouse scholarships were announced that evening at a banquet in Washington. First and second prizes -- scholarships totaling \$4,800 -- went to two New York State boys who plan to study physics and mathematics. A 17-year-old College Park, Md., girl, Mary Helen Martin, was among the 30 winners of \$100 scholarships.

CANCER NURSES PLAN WASHINGTON MEETING

Cancer nursing education problems will be examined at a meeting to be held in Washington, D. C., March 29-30, with 17 nurse instructors from various parts of the country scheduled to participate.

NCI Chief Nursing Officer, Rosalie I. Peterson, who is in charge of the planning committee, said the group will review the proposed content for a cancer course in nursing schools. The course would train nurses to be effective case-finders, to assist patients and their families in adjusting to the illness, and to provide the special home and hospital care needed by cancer patients.

The meeting is a follow-up of the cancer conference held last year at the University of Minnesota.

NIH GROUP EXAMINES GRANTS STATISTICS

A report on how statistics on the NIH extramural programs are collected and issued was presented to the Advisory Committee on Grants Statistics by Mr. Roland P. Maher of DRG at a recent meeting of the committee.

The 12-member committee was established by an over-all committee of executive officers studying administration of grants. The committee hopes to devise procedures by which the Reports and Statistics Section of DRG and the Medical Sciences Information Exchange of the National Research Council can best supply information needed by NIH and its constituents, by PHS and FSA, and by members of Congress.

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT

A property utilization program at NIH and its field stations will be inaugurated in April, offering the Institutes an opportunity to dispose of surplus equipment on a reimbursable basis by transfer of funds through allotment credits. Laboratory equipment and other materials in good condition and of recent manufacture may be offered for "sale" under this program, according to Mr. Theodore A. Gates of the Purchase and Supply Branch.